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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
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RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2778
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2899
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 1344
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000322

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR B. WALCH
AF/E FOR M. BEYZEROV
DRL FOR N. WILETT
DRL/MLGA FOR L. SICADE
IO/RHS FOR A. OSTERMEIER AND G. PATEL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/17/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE DEMARCHE ON HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND
MADAGASCAR

REF: A. STATE 36629
[1](#)B. STATE 31175
[1](#)C. STATE 29453

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) On April 16, poloffs met with Joe Mhishi Tapera, Head of Multilateral Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Relations to present the U.S. nomination to the UN Human Rights Council (Refs A and B) and to discuss Madagascar (Ref C).

[1](#)2. (SBU) With respect to the Human Rights Council, we presented the talking points from Ref B, diplomatic note, and U.S. Human Rights Commitments and Pledges paper. Tapera accepted the documents and responded with a brief, generic exposition on human rights. He pointed out that human rights should not be politicized but rather should be used for advancing the cause of human kind. He also noted that we all ascribe to the same basic minimum human rights principles and should engage in dialogue to share these perspectives. Tapera did not respond substantively to the issue of the U.S. nomination but agreed to review the documents more closely, bring the matter to the attention of superiors, and contact us with any questions.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Turning to Madagascar, Tapera "welcomed" the U.S.'s "balanced" position on Madagascar. He averred Zimbabwe's support for the SADC and AU positions.

[1](#)4. (C) COMMENT: This brief encounter was the first meeting we have had with Tapera or with anyone at the MFA to present a demarche in recent memory. The new government has indicated a desire to engage at all levels, and we will attempt to do so. Our reception and meeting was professional, but cautious. As is customary with ZANU-PF interlocutors, there was no inclination to deviate from the

party line. END COMMENT.

MCGEE